



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2010

## **MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

### **FACT SHEET**

# **SANDERS ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH BUILDER TO REDEVELOP CIVIC CENTER**

*Millions in Savings Would Go Towards Police, Fire, Libraries, Streets*

San Diego taxpayers would reap a savings of \$24 million over ten years and \$232 million over 50 years should the City redevelop the Civic Center instead of continuing to lease expensive off-site office space and making costly band-aid repairs to the existing facility, according to an agreement announced today by Mayor Jerry Sanders.

“For me, this is a business decision,” said Mayor Sanders. “I can not justify throwing away millions of dollars on rent, as well as repairs to a building on its last legs, when there is a less expensive alternative. The savings we achieve will be used for police, fire, parks, branch libraries and street resurfacing.”

Under the agreement, Gerding-Edlen Development would construct a 19-story building immediately next to City Hall where Golden Hall currently stands. The new facility would allow the City to consolidate city employees who work downtown into one building, negating the need for the City to continue paying \$13 million a year for leased office space and making necessary fixes to the Civic Center, projected to cost \$37 million over the next ten years.

In addition to saving taxpayer dollars, the project would generate 2,300 construction jobs, 70 percent of which would be designated for San Diego residents.

Last year, the City began negotiating with Gerding Edlen after the firm won a public competition.

-more-

At the outset, Sanders set forth the criteria that would need to be met to win his support. First and foremost, the project must save taxpayer dollars beginning in the first year of occupancy; it must have a positive impact on the City's general fund; the developer must shoulder financial risk, including cost over-runs and financial delays; and the building must reflect the state-of-the-art in environmentally friendly, energy efficient construction. In bringing the agreement forward, Sanders says his requirements have been met.

According to the agreement, the cost of the new Civic Center will not exceed \$293.5 million. It will feature a one-stop shop on the first level, providing citizens with direct access to city services, and an expanded City Council chambers on the second level. The new chambers will have a seating capacity of 400, an increase of 43 percent from the existing chambers. The project will also feature a 1.25-acre public plaza. The existing Civic Theatre would remain as is.

Sanders is hopeful that the project will also help spur further redevelopment downtown's northern section.

The City will hold a series of public informational meetings where the public can learn more about the project:

- June 28<sup>th</sup> – Joe and Vi Jacobs Center, 404 Euclid Avenue
- June 30<sup>th</sup> – Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library, 9005 Aero Drive
- July 7<sup>th</sup> – Rancho Penasquitos Branch Library, 13330 Salmon River Road
- July 8<sup>th</sup> – Nobel Recreation Center, 8810 Judicial Drive

*all meetings will begin at 6:00pm*

Sanders will present the proposal to the city's Rules Committee next Wednesday and to the full City Council at its July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, where he will ask the Council to place it on the November ballot.

If approved by voters, construction would begin in January 2012. Completion would occur in 2014.

For more information, go to the Mayor's website, [www.sandiego.gov/mayor](http://www.sandiego.gov/mayor)

# # #